

**6246 Sturbridge Court
Sarasota, Florida 34238**

January 20, 2002

**Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530**

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my opinion of the recent antitrust case settlement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft. Although I am happy to see Microsoft will not be broken up, I do think the penalties imposed are too harsh.

I have never felt as a consumer that my rights were being violated, nor do I think that competitors have been unfairly pushed out of the market. Microsoft has worked harder to innovate and create products that competitors cannot. When Microsoft should be applauded, the government wants to bring them down. The settlement violates their intellectual property rights by forcing them to disclose technology codes and inhibits their ability to maintain market share by restricting them from third party agreements regarding exclusive distribution.

But, even though the agreement is flawed it is in best interest of public and economy to settle and that is why I support settlement. I urge your office to do so also and ignore opposition that seems to think it is better to drag this out and waste more taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,


Kathleen A. Krebsen